

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

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R 101210Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9252

INFO AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0095

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NO, SU

SUBJECT: NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT

REF: OSLO 5499

1. NORWEGIAN FONMIN FRYDENLUND AND PARTY PAID LOW-KEY VISIT SUDAN JAN 6-9. IN ADDITION USUAL ROUND CALLS AND RECEPTIONS KHARTOUM (INCLUDING MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI), FRYDENLUND PAID LITERALLY FLYING VISIT TO SOUTHERN REGION JANUARY 8 ESCORTED BY SUDANESE AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE TO ETHIOPIA FAKHR AL-DIN MOHAMMED.

2. PRIOR TO FONMIN'S ARRIVAL, NORWEGIAN AMBASSADOR TANCRED IBSEN (RESIDENT CAIRO) ADMITTED TO AMBASSADOR THAT SCHEDULING PROBLEMS HAD REDUCED VISIT'S IMPACT. ADDITIONALLY, SUDAN IS NOT NOW ONE OF NORWAY'S BILATERAL AID COUNTRIES. IBSEN HOPED GON MIGHT NEVERHTELESS BE ABLE DO MORE IN DUE COURSE SINCE HE CLAIMED NORWAY WOULD BE UNABLE SPEND MORE THAN HALF ITS EXPECTED OIL INCOME INTERNALLY. ONLY CURRENT NORWEGIAN ACTIVITY HERE IS \$7 MILLION PROGRAM IN SOUTH BEING EXECUTED BY NORWEGIAN CHURCH RELIEF
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ORGANIZATION (KIRKENS NODHJELP). WHEN

SCHEDULE SHORTENED BY ONE DAY DUE FONMIN'S OTHER COMMITMENTS, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT TRIP SOUTH BE ELIMINATED. HOWEVER, HEAD NORWEGIAN CHURCH RELIEF ORGANIZATION HAD PLACED PLANE AT FRYDENLUND'S DISPOSAL, IN EFFECT REQUIRING HIM TO MAKE VISIT. FAKHR AL-DIN SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR IT HAD BEEN EXHAUSTING DAY DURING WHICH AT LEAST ONE FUNCTION HAD BEEN DROPPED FROM SCHEDULE.

3. ACCORDING IBSEN, FONMIN WAS TO HAVE SOUGHT APPROVAL FOR APPOINTMENT WELL KNOWN LOCAL BUSINESSMAN TAHA AL-ROUBI AS HONORARY CONGEN. SO FAR THERE HAS BEEN NO REPEAT NO ANNOUNCEMENT TO THIS EFFECT, AND LIMITED PUBLICITY AT END VISIT DID NOT REPEAT NOT SUGGEST ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW STEP IN NORWEGIAN/SUDANESE TIES. BREWER

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